

Unit 4: Division, Reconciliation, and Expansion
Benchmark Test 5**MULTIPLE CHOICE****Literary Analysis and Reading Skills**

1. Imagine you are handed a magazine article called “Uncovering Hidden Biographical Treasures in the Poems of Emily Dickinson.” What would be your purpose in reading the article?
 - A. to understand more about Dickinson’s life in relationship to the content of her poetry
 - B. to find out why Emily Dickinson used odd punctuation
 - C. to test a theory about why Dickinson’s poems are usually short in length
 - D. to determine whether Dickinson really existed
2. What would you expect “Uncovering Hidden Biographical Treasures in the Poems of Emily Dickinson” to express?
 - A. mostly facts
 - B. mostly opinions
 - C. equal number of facts and opinions
 - D. either facts or opinions

Read the selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.

A Letter to John Adams, 1796

Dear Sir—The public and the public papers have been much occupied lately in placing us in a point of opposition to each other. I trust with confidence that less of it has been felt by ourselves personally . . . I knew it impossible you should lose a vote North of the Delaware, and even if that of Pennsylvania should be against you in the mass, yet that you would get enough South of that to place your succession out of danger . . .

Thomas Jefferson

3. How might recognizing historical details help the reader’s comprehension of this selection?
 - A. The reader might learn personal information about the life of the writer.
 - B. The reader might learn outmoded vocabulary.
 - C. The reader might learn about the selection’s social and political context.
 - D. The reader might learn about contemporary ideas and beliefs.
4. What would be the best purpose for reading this selection?
 - A. to learn what historians think of Jefferson and Adams
 - B. to decide which man was a better writer
 - C. to decide which man contributed more to the founding of the country
 - D. to compare the political beliefs of Jefferson and Adams

5. Which is the best definition of diction?
 - A. the dictionary definitions of the words an author uses
 - B. the writer's choice of sentence structure and length
 - C. the sound and pattern of the words
 - D. a writer's choice and arrangement of words
6. What background knowledge would best help you understand the following sentences?

The Northern soldiers ached for home. They were restless and angry. Was this Union really worth it?

 - A. the reason the soldiers were in a war
 - B. the type of family members they had left behind
 - C. each soldier's rank
 - D. the geography of the region
7. Why is listening a particularly important skill in appreciating song lyrics and poetry?
 - A. They are particularly difficult to understand.
 - B. They are intended to be heard.
 - C. They are filled with interesting words.
 - D. They have various types of rhyme and rhythm.
8. Which part of a song or poem is most likely to express its theme?
 - A. introduction
 - B. middle verses
 - C. coda
 - D. refrain
9. Chronological order is associated with which of the following?
 - A. space
 - B. distance
 - C. position
 - D. time
10. Which of the following would you expect to be organized in chronological order?
 - A. directions for assembling a chair
 - B. trip itinerary
 - C. journal entry
 - D. character sketch
11. How are the nineteenth-century literary movements Realism and Naturalism similar?
 - A. They both have a great deal in common with Romanticism.
 - B. They both portray the lives of ordinary people.
 - C. They both had little influence on the literary movements that followed.
 - D. They both have more interest in characters' motivations than in outward appearances.

12. How do Realism and Naturalism differ?

- A. Realism is more accurate than Naturalism.
- B. Realism generally depicts ordinary people and Naturalism is more concerned with extraordinary people.
- C. Realism is less optimistic than Naturalism.
- D. Realism depicts everyday reality and Naturalism focuses on helplessness in the face of chance.

Read the selection. Then, answer the questions that follow.

I was born in Tuckahow, near Hillsborough, and about twelve miles from Easton, in Talbot county, Maryland. I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.

from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave, written by Himself

13. What genre is the selection?

- A. biography
- B. autobiography
- C. science fiction
- D. historical fiction

14. Which of the following best describes the author's diction?

- A. quite abstract
- B. very casual
- C. rather formal
- D. extremely emotional

15. Which of the following statements most accurately characterizes the selection?

- A. The selection contains both facts and opinions.
- B. The selection contains factual material only.
- C. The selection contains opinions only.
- D. The selection is mostly made up.

16. Which of the following items is the most objective?

- A. score on a multiple choice exam
- B. response to a marketing survey
- C. book review
- D. polling data

17. Which type of beliefs are generally the most difficult to identify?

- A. stated
- B. implicit
- C. explicit
- D. objective

18. Of what point of view is this sentence an example?

While Janis dreamed of nothing more than fame and Marla was obsessed by her looks, Kayley wanted more than anything merely to blend in.

- A. limited first person
 - B. limited third person
 - C. omniscient first person
 - D. omniscient third person
19. In which point of view is the narrator *not* an objective observer?
- A. omniscient
 - B. limited third person
 - C. first person
 - D. omniscient third person

Vocabulary

20. Based on your knowledge of the root *-greg-*, what is the meaning of *congregation*?
- A. an injured farm animal
 - B. a group of children crowding around a painting
 - C. a couple taking a stroll around the lake
 - D. a man watching a large fire on the mountains
21. What is the meaning of the word root shared by the words *compress* and *impress*?
- A. decrease
 - B. embellish
 - C. push
 - D. show
22. What is the meaning of the word *summation* in the following sentence?
- The attorney wrapped up her argument with a summation of the case in favor of her client.
- A. specific details
 - B. overview
 - C. mathematical equation
 - D. professional concern
23. Based on your knowledge of the root *-bene-*, what is the meaning of *beneficial*?
- A. knowledgeable
 - B. confident
 - C. merciful
 - D. advantageous

24. Based on the meaning of the Latin prefix *-ob-*, what is the meaning of *objectionable*?
- A. hard to move
 - B. squeamish
 - C. unbiased
 - D. offensive

Grammar Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

25. Ray ran quickly, _____ a man being chased.
- A. like
 - B. as though
 - C. as if
 - D. as
26. Do _____ I tell you!
- A. like
 - B. as though
 - C. as if
 - D. as
27. Moving through the woods rapidly _____ found the others in the group in an hour.
- A. Nicole
 - B. Nicole,
 - C. , Nicole,
 - D. , Nicole
28. _____ Dana _____ her sister had yet taken the driving course.
- A. Either . . . or
 - B. Neither . . . nor
 - C. Not only . . . but
 - D. Just as . . . so
29. _____ the band _____ the orchestra will be playing at the graduation; we haven't yet decided which would be best.
- A. either . . . or
 - B. neither . . . nor
 - C. not only . . . but
 - D. whether . . . or
30. The students asked to have the prom date changed _____ were several conflicts on that day.
- A. : there
 - B. ; there
 - C. , there
 - D. - there

31. The cat slid over the floor, climbed on the coach and _____ onto the window sill.
 - A. is jumping
 - B. had jumped
 - C. jumps
 - D. jumped
32. Which of the following statements is true of correlative conjunctions?
 - A. They are not really conjunctions.
 - B. They are always used in pairs.
 - C. They join elements of unlike classes.
 - D. They join like conjunctions.
33. Which of the following is a proper noun?
 - A. a person's name
 - B. a direction
 - C. weather
 - D. branch of service

ESSAY

34. Write a field report. To prepare, take notes as you observe an aspect of nature directly. Be as detailed and accurate as possible. Then, write up your notes. Present your observations in a logical, well-organized manner, and leave out your opinions.
35. Think of a life-altering experience. What was it? How did it change you? Write a reflective essay in which you think deeply about a significant experience and help readers understand why it was so important to you.
36. Respond to the following question from a college application:
 You have been approached to write your autobiography. Explain at what point you would begin your autobiography and at what point you would end it. Discuss the reasons that you would choose these points.
37. Critique a short story or a poem. Explain clearly what you do and do not like about the piece you select, and use copious examples and quotations to back up your opinions.
38. Step back in time and participate in a momentous event. Invent a diary entry that describes both the event and its importance, as well as your feelings about it. Make sure readers understand which event you are writing about it and why it is important.